

## Testimony of Ana Rodriguez

My name is Ana Rodriguez. I live in Lawrence, MA and I work for the MA Department of Mental Health. I am an active individual who volunteers for many different organizations in order to improve the overall health and well being for the people in Lawrence and the surrounding areas.

As a volunteer, I serve on the Board of the Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and the Board of Lawrence CommunityWorks. Both of these organizations are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life, the living conditions, and ensuring that individuals in Lawrence have Access.

- Access to local government to participate in improving the city in which they live.
- Access to information to understand how to work with different city agencies to clean the streets, alleys, to decrease crime in their neighborhoods, and
- access to healthcare.

The Greater Lawrence Family Health Center and Lawrence General Hospital have made a huge difference to the citizens of Lawrence and Methuen. Both as individual organizations and jointly. GLFHC and LGH have significantly enhanced the medical care in our community. One of the ways this has been accomplished is by improving and ensuring the Access to high quality medical care.

I am concerned about Cerberus - a New York venture capital firm – buying a hospital in our region. Will the purchase of Holy Family Hospital, by a venture capital firm and its conversion from a not for profit, mission driven public charity to a For Profit Corporation whose real concern may not be insuring Access, but reducing unprofitable programs, which reduces access, reducing expenses and insuring profits.

I believe that this acquisition may dramatically and permanently change health care delivery in our community. Our region relies on two hospital providers, and many caring physicians and caregivers.

Our region needs every single health care access point we have and more. We need to insure current access isn't reduced in any way as a part of this sale. A reduction in access and available healthcare would have a strong negative impact on the Latino community which is the majority of Lawrence residents.

I urge the Attorney General to put conditions in place on this transfer that preserve access and insure that all of the incredible work that has been done by Lawrence General Hospital and the GLFHC to improve the overall health of our community continues well into the future.

Thank you.

Ana Rodriguez